



# Indiana Youth Environmental Summit Information

## I-YES OBJECTIVE

To introduce students to action projects that they can implement to benefit the environment in their communities.

### What is the Indiana Youth Environmental Summit?

The Indiana Youth Environmental Summit (I-YES) has been held every other year since 1995. The Summit is organized by volunteers with an interest in Environmental Education. The Summit has been financially supported with grants, donations and in-kind contributions from the committee members.

***The next I-YES will be held in 2001 and the State Planning Committee is working to expand to 3 regional sites – geographically located throughout Indiana.***

### History of I-YES

The Indiana Youth Environmental Summit evolved to its present format after several of the State Committee members were involved with the 1992, 1993, & 1994 Governor's Conferences on the Environment. A segment of the Governor's Conference included a Children's Conference geared toward the attendee's children and highlighted environmental activities for youth. A decision was made to conduct a conference for students in **grades 3 – 8 statewide**, to reach more schools and students.

### Past I-YES Conferences

1995– Eden Elem. - Hancock County 515 participants from 65 schools in 31 counties.

1997 - Clinton Central Elem. Clinton County - 525 participants from 69 schools in 36 counties.

1999 - Decatur Central Middle - Marion County - 265 participants from 42 schools in 25 counties.

### State Planning Committee

I-YES is organized by representatives from: Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Mid East Solid Waste Management District, East Central Indiana Solid Waste Management District, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Three Rivers Solid Waste Management District, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.

We are currently looking for regional committee members for the three 2001 summits.

### Schedule of the Day

All three Summits have followed the same schedule containing several distinct components.

#### Registration

Groups pre-register to simplify check-in. Groups receive packets, look at exhibits and refreshments have been available.

#### Welcome and Opening Presentation

Participants gather for an overview of the day. An opening keynote presentation is given to set the tone for the day. Past welcome keynotes have included Joe Wright, formerly of IN Department of Education, Susan Fowler with Harmony by Hand, Bill Hammond of Florida-internationally known for Youth Environmental Action Projects, and the Earth Time Players, a High School theatrical troupe with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful.

#### AM Sessions – Students Teaching Students

During the two morning sessions, peer education is the focus with student groups who have completed Environmental Action Projects share their success with the students attending.

#### Lunch and Eco-Chats

For lunch the participants are split into two groups, one group enjoys lunch while the second group participates in Eco-Chats. Eco-Chats are an opportunity for the student participants to discuss careers with environmental professionals. Because of the informal nature of the Eco-Chats, students can gain in depth knowledge on a particular career or they may gain a breadth of knowledge on a wide variety of career possibilities. Also during lunch, attendees can view the exhibits.

#### Keynote Speaker

The Keynote Entertainment all three years has been Billy B. – the Natural Science Song and Dance Man.

#### PM Sessions – Environmental Professionals

During the two afternoon sessions, adults involved in environmental professions give presentations to the students on different projects that they have worked with or are doing.

#### Closing

The closing session has included Billy B and the Summit attendees and the Earth Time Players. The closing brings an opportunity for participants to reflect on what they have learned and to plan on how to take this newly gained knowledge and apply it in their own communities.

**NOTICE:** Applications are currently being accepted for Host Sites, Presentations(Adults, Middle School and High School students), Exhibits and Eco-Chats. Also persons interested in serving on regional planning committees for the 2001 summits to be held in the north, central and south areas of Indiana.

**For more information:** contact Susan Schultz, Indiana Project WET Coordinator & State I-YES Coordinator at 317-562-0788 or email: smschultz@purdue.edu